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**BOBBY L. RUSH**  
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
1<sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT, ILLINOIS  
WEBSITE: <http://www.house.gov/rush>

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
2416 RAYBURN HOB  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-4372  
(202) 226-0333 (FAX)

CHICAGO OFFICE:  
700-706 E. 79TH STREET  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60619  
(773) 224-6500  
(773) 224-9624 (FAX)

MIDLOTHIAN OFFICE:  
3235 WEST 147TH STREET  
MIDLOTHIAN, ILLINOIS 60445  
(708) 385-9550  
(708) 385-3860 (FAX)

July 15, 2009

The Honorable Eric Holder  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Holder:

I am writing to bring your attention to an extremely shocking set of events that took place in the 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District of Illinois that I represent. Last week, Cook County, Illinois law enforcement authorities descended upon the historic Burr Oak Cemetery, located in Alsip, Illinois where hundreds of graves had been unearthed, allegedly by at least four current and former cemetery employees, in order to sell the vacated graves for cash to unsuspecting families. It was initially estimated that the remains of more than 300 people were disinterred and dumped into mass graves to support this criminal venture, which netted hundreds of thousands of dollars. It was subsequently determined that many more graves were disturbed and the entire cemetery is now a crime scene.

The hideous nature of this crime goes well beyond the pale and I am aware that FBI agents are assisting in the forensics aspects of this investigation. However, I respectfully request that the Department of Justice initiate a criminal investigation to determine if any federal laws, rules, or policy statements, or a combination thereof, was violated during the perpetration of this shameful enterprise. Unfortunately, the damage done to the families and loved ones of those disturbed from their final resting places cannot be undone, but we owe it to these citizens to ensure that those responsible for these reprehensible acts are brought to justice and mechanisms are put in place to deter this kind of despicable act in the future.

Thank you for your consideration of this urgent matter and I look forward to your timely reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bobby L. Rush". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress